



coombefield veterinary hospital

October 2011 Small Animal Newsletter

DRY EYE AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2011

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS) commonly referred to as “DRY EYE” is one of the most common eye problems diagnosed, with 1 in 22 dogs being affected in the UK.

DRY EYE is caused by the destruction of the tear glands by the dog’s own immune system. This reduces the animals’ ability to produce natural tears. If left untreated, the gland is eventually destroyed and the animal may lose the ability to produce tears altogether. This condition is very painful and may lead to permanent blindness.

Certain breeds of dogs are particularly susceptible to DRY EYE; English Cocker Spaniels, West Highland White Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Shih Tzu’s, Bulldogs, Pekinese, Pugs and Lhaso Apso’s.

Clinical signs include; eye become red and inflamed, discomfort, dog blinking excessively and keeping the eyes closed, discharge for the eyes, dry looking eyes, eye infections, ulceration or conjunctivitis.

It is important to recognise, that in some dogs the outward signs may be very subtle or non apparent to the untrained eye, but the condition can still be quite advanced and progress rapidly. This is where regular checks for predisposed breeds become valuable.

Testing for DRY EYE only takes a minute and is designed to give the vet an indication as to what your dog’s level of tear production is. A special strip of paper is placed under the eyelid, and the progression of a dye traced along the strip. The results of the test are then used along with other factors such as clinical signs to determine whether DRY EYE is present.



During the month of October, the veterinary nursing team are offering FREE appointments for those breeds predisposed to DRY EYE as a routine check. Please note, if the results show signs of DRY EYE a follow up appointment maybe required with one of the veterinary surgeons, unfortunately we cannot guarantee this appointment to be at the same time. If your dog is showing any of the signs indicated above, you should make an appointment with your veterinary surgeon rather than a veterinary nurse.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

----- 🐾 Paws’ for thought 🐾 -----

We would like to welcome Matt Eayrs and Rebecca Skellern, to our small animal veterinary team.

We are also pleased to announce that we have joined Facebook. Search “Coombefield Veterinary Hospital” and “like” us to be kept up to date with current events at the hospital.



We have noticed an increase in incidences of myxomatosis, not only in wild rabbits being brought to the hospital but also in pet bunnies. We recommend that you vaccinate your rabbits as soon as possible to prevent the spread of this disease. Please phone **Axminster 630500** or **Seaton 24896** for an appointment.

OUR NEW EXTENSION HAS OPENED!



Coombefield Veterinary Hospital is pleased to announce the extension to our small animal hospital is nearing completion. We are very proud to be able to provide our clients and their pets with these updated and expanded facilities. The new extension will ensure we can continue to maintain our current status as a Tier 3 hospital keeping in line with RCVS standards.

We have extended the building to provide:-

- Two spacious operating theatres
- An imaging suite containing the latest digital radiography equipment and ultrasound scanner.
- A designated cat ward to allow maximum patient comfort and minimal stress
- A large prep room for emergency treatment, anaesthetic induction and surgical preparation before entering theatre.
- A dedicated dental theatre
- A nurses station – the control centre of the hospital
- Renovation of our existing dog kennels

In addition the upper story of the extension will provide us with an ideal room for client meetings, discussion groups yoga classes and somewhere to scream when necessary!

We are already using the theatres and imaging suite and will shortly be moving into the cattery and dental theatre.

We hope to officially open the building in November, with a proposed open day for the Spring 2012

Please see www.CoombefieldVets.co.uk for more information